

# ***“Toward Wildlife-Friendly Wind Power: Focus on the Great Lakes Basin”***

## **Introductory Panel**

**June 27, 2006  
Toledo, Ohio**

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**Panel 1 Chair**

# ***Welcome to ALL!***

- ◆ Special thanks to Conference Chair, **Rich Greenwood**, and to **Agenda Committee** Co-chairs,
  - **Megan Seymour and Alex Hoar;**
  - **Plus other Committee members Leakhena Au, Ron Larkin, and Rich, w/ guidance from Rachel Levin.**
  - **Could thank many others but time does not allow.**
- ◆ **Special thanks also to Conference Organizers:**
  - **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**
  - **Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem Team**
  - **Great Lakes National Program Office**
  - **Illinois Natural History Survey**
  - **U.S. Geological Survey**
  - **U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**

# ***Unique Conference***

- ◆ **Agenda Committee pulled together some of leading experts on:**
  - **Wind development technology;**
  - **Science in regard to birds, bats, insects, the benthos, fisheries, and aquatic organisms;**
  - **Consultant and industry representatives;**
  - **Tools and techniques used to monitor, evaluate, and assess presence, risk , and impact to species and habitats;**
  - **Representatives from agencies – including Canada and U.K. – States and Counties, other Federal; and**
  - **Tribal, legal, conservation and commercial interests.**

# ***Unique Conference, cont.***

- ◆ Conference is response to only recommendation from Government Accountability Office (2005; GAO) wind audit:
  - - *"Wind Power: Impacts on Wildlife and Government Responsibilities for Regulating Development and Protecting Wildlife"*
    - Recommendation: "The GAO recommends that FWS provide state and local regulatory agencies with information on the potential wildlife impacts from wind power and the resources available to help make decisions about where wind development should be approved."
- ◆ FWS hopes, in part, to fulfill this recommendation by allowing non-FWS experts to present the evidence, raise the issues, and make recommendations for developing wildlife-friendly wind power – both land-based and offshore – in Great Lakes Basin.
- ◆ Service here to listen and learn. We're only making 2 presentations during the entire 3-day conference.

# ***Unique Conference, cont.***

- ◆ We strongly encourage **audience participation** – comments and questions. If time doesn't permit questions to be answered during presentations, don't forget during breaks.
- ◆ We'll all have opportunity to provide suggestions and recommendations for **"moving forward and next steps"** as well as **"priority research needs"** during the final afternoon.
  - This will be your opportunity for comment and feedback.
  - Our highly capable facilitator, Ms. Marci Caplis, will help move us forward.
- ◆ We also have an opportunity to **honor** the service and dedication of a champion of wildlife, a public servant, and recently retired and renowned ornithologist, **Dr. Chan Robbins** this evening.

# Panel 1

- ◆ **So let's get started.**
- ◆ **Our first panel sets the stage regarding wind energy development, current wind technologies, land-based and offshore wind energy – “Wind 101” -- and wind's potential impacts to wildlife.**
- ◆ **Our first 2 presenters are imminently qualified to set this stage, “paint the picture,” and introduce us to the gear, the technology, and the wildlife and habitat challenges. Both are colleagues with whom I work closely.....**
  - **Bob Thresher and**
  - **Alex Hoar.**